Rail booking through Internet

3247. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have started booking through internet;

(b) if so, in which regions this facility is available in the country; and

(c) what is the mechanism for payment, apart from credit card?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The facility of booking rail ticket through internet is available universally and can be availed by Master Card and Visa Credit Card holders. The facility of delivery of reserved tickets is, however, confined to the following cities, Delhi, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Chennai, Mumbai/Navi Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Pune. At present, for booking of tickets through internet, the mode of payment is through Credit Card only.

Merger of Vizag Railway Division

3248. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vizag Division could be merged with S.C. Railway Zone, Secunderabad; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is Waltair and not Vizag Division. At present it is with South Eastern Railway. It is to become part of East Coast Railway Zone *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003 which is being carved out of South Eastern Railway with 3 Divisions *i.e.* Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltair. The jurisdiction of East Coast Railway has been decided keeping in view the geographical contiguity of the Divisions, smooth movement of traffic, to provide better control and to improve efficiency. South Central Railway is already having 5 Division and *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003

two more new Divisions *i.e.* Guntur and Nanded are being added to it, while Hubli Division is going under new South Western Railway Zone, Hubli.

Abohar-Fazilka rail line

3249. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying new rail line between Abohar and Fazilka, in Punjab, has been completed; if so, when and the findings of the survey report;

(b) which route has been suggested in the survey report and what would be its total length; and

(c) by when the rail line laying work is likely to start and be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The survey for construction of new broad gauge rail line between Abohar and Fazilka (42.717 km.) was completed in December, 1997. As per survey report, the cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 73.15 crore with a rate of return of (-) 7.44%. The stations are proposed at Burj Mohar, Churiwala, Ghallu, Khuikhera and Jandwala. The project was included in the Budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances, which have since been obtained in September, 2001. The final location survey has been completed and land acquisition is in process. No target date has been fixed for completion of this project.

Internet kiosks at railway stations

3250. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken steps to allocate more space at railway stations for putting up internet kiosks;

(b) if so, whether railway stations have been identified in Tamil Nadu for this purpose, State-wise; and

(c) how many railway stations have been identified in India for the above purpose?